

Claims

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1-16. (Previously canceled)

17-21. (Cancel)

22. (New) A method of displaying information on a display screen for a user operating a computer, the method comprising the acts of:

displaying a document viewing window on the display screen, wherein the document viewing window includes within it a primary area for viewing documents, and a secondary area, wherein the primary area and the secondary area are integrated into the document viewing window so that the information in the primary area and the secondary area can be seen simultaneously;

displaying a first document in the primary area within the document viewing window;

upon displaying the first document in the primary area within the document viewing window, automatically displaying, without requiring further input from the user, a link to a second document, wherein the link to the second document is displayed in the secondary area within the document viewing window, wherein the first document in the primary area and the link to the second document in the secondary area are displayed simultaneously in the document viewing window, and wherein the link to the second document is not part of or embedded within the first document, but wherein text included within the second document refers to the first document;

monitoring the selection of the link to the second document; and

detecting that the user has selected the link to the second document; and

upon detecting that the user has selected the link to the second document, displaying the second document in the primary area within the document viewing window.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising the acts of:

displaying a third document in the primary area within the document viewing window;

upon displaying the third document in the primary area within the document viewing window, automatically displaying, without requiring further input from the user, a link to a fourth document, wherein the link to the fourth document is displayed in the secondary area within the document viewing window, wherein the third document in the primary area and the link to the fourth document in the secondary area are displayed simultaneously in the document viewing window, and wherein the link to the fourth document is not part of or embedded within the third document, but wherein text included within the fourth document refers to the third document;

monitoring the selection of the link to the fourth document; and

upon detecting that the user has selected the link to the fourth document, displaying the fourth document.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the act of:

upon displaying the third document in the primary area within the document viewing window, automatically displaying, without requiring further input from the user, a link to a fifth document, wherein the link to the fifth document is displayed in the secondary area within the document viewing window, wherein the third document in the primary area and the link to the fifth document in the secondary area are displayed simultaneously in the document viewing window, and wherein the link to the fifth document is not part of or embedded within the third document, but wherein text included within the fifth document refers to the third document.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising the act of:

upon detecting that the user has selected the link to the fourth document, continuing to display the link to the fourth document.

26. (New) A method of displaying information on a display screen for a user operating a computer, the method comprising the acts of:

displaying a first document on the display screen;

displaying a display element on the display screen;

monitoring the selection of the display element;

upon detecting that the user has selected the display element, replacing the first document on the display screen with a list of links to a plurality of documents, wherein none of the plurality of documents is part of or embedded in the first document, but wherein text included within each of the plurality of documents refers to the first document;

monitor selection of one of the plurality of links;

detect that the user has selected a first link, wherein the first link is one of the plurality of links, and wherein the first link is associated with a first linked document; and

display the first linked document on the display screen.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the act of replacing the first document on the display screen with a list of links to a plurality of documents includes the act of:

replacing the first document on the display screen with a list of links to a plurality of documents that are filtered by a characteristic of the documents.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the act of replacing the first document on the display screen with a list of links to a plurality of documents includes the act of:

replacing the first document on the display screen with a list of links to a plurality of documents that are sorted by a characteristic of the documents.

29. (New) A method of displaying information on a display screen for a user operating a computer, the method comprising the acts of:

displaying a document viewing window on the display screen, wherein the document viewing window includes within it a primary area for viewing documents, and a secondary area, wherein the primary area and the secondary area are integrated into the document viewing window so that the information in the primary area and the secondary area can be seen simultaneously;

displaying a first document in the primary area within the document viewing window, wherein the first document is referenced by text included in a second document;

detecting that the user wishes to display a third document;

displaying the third document in the primary area within the document viewing window;

while displaying the third document, automatically displaying, without requiring further input from the user, a link to the second document, wherein the link to the second document is displayed in the secondary area within the document viewing window, wherein the third document in the primary area and the link to the second document in the secondary area are displayed simultaneously in the document viewing window, and wherein the link to the second document is not part of or embedded within the third document;

detecting that the user has selected the link to the second document;

upon detecting that the user has selected the link to the second document, displaying the second document.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising the act of:

displaying the second document in the primary area of the document viewing window.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the second document and the third document are related to each other by both including information about a common subject.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the first document is a judicial opinion.